

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 00064 041752Z

ACTION EUR-02

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TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

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USINFO WASHDC FOR IOP/M, IBS/PE

USIA WASHDC FOR IEU/MCLAUGHLIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PO

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. U.S. LOAN: CONTINUED TO RECEIVE PROMINENT PRESS COVERAGE FOLLOWING TREASURY UNDERSECRETARY YEO'S VISIT TO LISBON. "A LUTA" JANUARY 3 CARRIED ARTICLE ENTITLED, "LOAN OF 9 MILLION CONTOS CONSIDERED THE FIRST STEP OF A LARGE SCALE PROGRAM."

2. U.S.-USSR: "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" JANUARY 4 RAN ARTICLE REPORTING "WASHINGTON POSTS" STORY THAT THE USSR WAS IMPLICATED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF THREE AMERICAN TECHNICIANS IN TEHERAN. PAPER ALSO CARRIED FRONT-PAGE REPORT OF "TIME" INTERVIEW WITH GERALD FORD INDICATING THAT THE MILITARY STRENGTH OF THE SOVIET UNION THREATENS AMERICAN SECURITY. ARTICLE QUOTED FORD AS SAYING, "IF THE DEFENSE BUDGET CONTINUES TO BE REDUCED, AS HAPPENED BEFORE 1974, OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE COULD BE IN A VERY GRAVE SITUATION FIVE OR TEN YEARS FROM NOW." "O SEculo" JANUARY 4 CARRIED REPORT OF VIOLENT SOVIET TASS ATTACK ON FORD, ACCUSING HIM OF "TRYING TO PASS TO CARTER THE LEGACY OF COLD WAR."

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3. CARTER FOREIGN POLICY: "DIARIO POPULAR" JANUARY 3 ARTICLE TAKEN FROM FRANCE PRESSE WIRE SERVICE AFFIRMED THAT THE ELECTION OF CARTER WAS CONSIDERED THE "NUMBER ONE" EVENT LAST YEAR IN NATO CIRCLES AND WILL HAVE REPERCUSSIONS IN VARIOUS FIELDS DIRECTLY AFFECTING THE NATO COUNTRIES. PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER CAME IN FOR SOME STRONG CRITICISM

FROM INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COLUMNIST MANUEL RODRIGUES IN "O SEculo" JANUARY 4 COLUMN. ARTICLE STATED THAT CARTER WOULD BE UNABLE TO FULFILL CAMPAIGN PROMISE OF DEFENSE CUTS AND CONCLUDED: "THE WORST IS THAT HIS CONCEIT LEADS HIM TO CONTINUE TO SPEAK OF ECONOMIES THAT HE HAS NO ABILITY TO REALIZE. THIS IS INEVITABLY DAMAGING HIS CREDIBILITY."

4. COMMUNIST PRESS: "DIARIO DE LISBOA" DEDICATED ITS DAILY U.S. ATTACK JANUARY 4 TO PRESIDENT FORD IN ARTICLE ENTITLED, "FORD WANTS TO ANNEX PUERTO RICO." TYPICAL COMMENT: "NOT CONTENT WITH SUPPORTING COUPS D'ETAT PLACING FAVORABLE PEOPLE IN CIVIL AND MILITARY GOVERNMENTS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE ENTIRE CONTINENT UNDER ECONOMIC CONTROL VIS-A-VIS ITS MULTINATIONALS, THE U.S. NOW WANTS TO OPT FOR PURE AND SIMPLE ANNEXATION OF LATIN AMERICAN TERRITORIES."
JORDAN

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